

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Justin Cook is a Jackson-native and has been at the Office of State Public Defender since January of 2008. He received his undergraduate degree from the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina. Justin attended law school at the University of Mississippi. He currently serves as the president of the Mississippi Public Defenders Association.

Justin and his wife Ginger live in Jackson with their children, Eloise and Oliver, and their dog Norman.

Randee J. Waldman serves as the Director of the Barton Juvenile Defender Clinic at Emory University School of Law. In this role, she supervises law students in holistic representation of young people charged with delinquent offenses. In addition to representing these clients in their juvenile court cases, she and her students also represent them in special education proceedings, school suspension proceedings, and other forums according to the clients' needs. Professor Waldman also engages in policy work related to juvenile justice issues and teaches courses in juvenile justice, criminal procedure and education law. Professor Waldman is the co-director of the Southern Juvenile Defender Center and Chair of the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys. She also serves as Treasurer for the Executive Committee of the Child Protection and Advocacy Section of the State Bar of Georgia and on the Advisory Board for PARTNERS for Equity in Child and Adolescent Health.

Amanda Glover Evans is the owner and managing attorney of Evans Law Firm, PLLC in Biloxi, Mississippi. She practices primarily in the areas of family law, criminal law, probate and estates, individual tax law, and other civil litigation. Though she has practiced in a variety of areas of the law throughout her career, she has always maintained an interest in Public Interest Law.

Amanda served as the Director of the Mississippi Taxpayer Assistance Project, an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC), from 2005 through 2011 with North Mississippi Rural Legal Services (NMRLS). The Project provided representation for low to moderate income taxpayers with State or Federal tax disputes. In 2006 she directed the two-year project called the Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps, Hurricane Katrina Initiative, Pro Bono Legal Corps, where she secured grant funding for the employment of four attorneys to organize attorney volunteers from throughout the country to provide representation to Mississippians affected by Hurricane Katrina. From 2009 through 2010, she served as the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Director with NMRLS, where she created the project through coordination with private-sector stakeholders, including banks, to provide tax preparation for low to moderate income Mississippians. The VITA program's oversight was transitioned after a successful launch and program growth. From 2007 to 2011, she served as an adjunct clinical professor at the University of Mississippi School of Law. In 2012, she opened a general practice in Meridian, Mississippi, which focused primarily on family and criminal law. She was appointed as a part-time Public Defender for Lauderdale County, Mississippi, in 2016. At the end of 2017, she returned to Biloxi, Mississippi, and accepted a position with the Youth Court of Harrison County. In Youth Court, Amanda primarily represented minors in delinquent offenses; however, she also handled cases

representing parents in abuse/neglect cases (dependency cases) and termination of parental rights cases, and minors or their interests as a Guardian ad Litem. Amanda returned to private practice in Biloxi in the fall of 2020.

Amanda is a graduate of the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and English, and the University of Mississippi School of Law where she obtained her Juris Doctor Degree. She is a member of The Mississippi Bar, and is licensed to practice law in all State and Federal courts in Mississippi and the United States Tax Court. She is an active member of the Harrison County Bar Association. After serving with the Mississippi Young Lawyers Division for several years, in 2019 she was inducted into the Fellows of the Young Lawyers of The Mississippi Bar.

Amanda is a native Mississippian—born in Jackson, reared in Biloxi, and lived and practiced law in Oxford and Meridian, and returning to Biloxi. Outside of the practice of law, Amanda is active in her community. Her family attends regular church services in the area and is involved in various community outreach. She is a member of several local civic groups, including serving as Treasurer in LikeMinded Ladies Gulf Coast. She enjoys spending time with her family in her free time. Her hobbies include jet-skiing, gardening, and caring for the family's pets. Amanda, her husband, and their children, ten-year-old son and five-year-old daughter, reside in Biloxi.

Amanda Glover Evans, Attorney at Law; Evans Law Firm, PLLC; Telephone: (228)697-9921; Fax: (228)285-5990; Web: www.msattorneyatlaw.com; Email: agevans@msattorneyatlaw.com.

Dwayne Nelson was born and raised in Hattiesburg; MS he attended the University of Southern Mississippi where he played football, he received an undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice and a master's degree in education psychology from William Carey University. Mr. Nelson has worked in law enforcement, Boys and Girls Club, Community Mental Health, Therapeutic Group Homes, and at the Mississippi Department of Mental Health with over 30 years of experience working with community organizations, schools, and the public.